

Docket No. 01-296

REMARKS

Claims 16 and 17 are pending. Claims 1, 3-13, 15 and 18-20 have been canceled (Claims 2 and 14, previously canceled) without prejudice for filing in a later filed continuation application. Claims 16 and 17 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification, thus no new matter has been added thereby. Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claims 16 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the features of the base and intervening claims.

Accordingly, Claims 16 and 17 have been rewritten into independent form and are therefore now in condition for allowance.

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Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a):

Claims 1, 3-6, 12-13, 15 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by European Patent Application 0 892 244 to Innocenti et al. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Innocenti et al. Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Innocenti et al. as applied to Claim 1 and further in view of Morton (USPN 4,724,316). Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Innocenti et al. in view of Morton.

Although Applicant respectfully suggests that the rejections could be traversed and overcome, Applicant has canceled Claims 1, 3-13, 15, and 18-20 to expedite prosecution in view of the Examiner's indication that Claims 16 and 17 are allowable.


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CONCLUSION

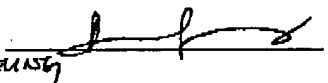
For the above reasons, pending Claims 16 and 17 are in condition for allowance and allowance of the application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at 949-955-1920 is welcomed and encouraged.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 21, 2006



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Certificate of Mailing/Transmission (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)):	
[] Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
[X] Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.6(d), I hereby certify that this paper and all enclosures are being sent via facsimile on the date indicated below to the attention of Examiner <u>JERRY T. RAHL</u>	
Dated: <u>APRIL 21, 2006</u>	Name of Person Certifying:  Printed Name: <u>CARRIE ANNE CHEN</u>